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Stratton Backs CIA, Opposes Investigation

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WASHINGTON — Congressman Samuel S. Stratton last night rapped demands for a congressional investigation of Central Intelligence Agency financing of student activities, warning that a country neglects its "dirty tricks department at its peril."

The Amsterdam Democrat charged that Ramparts magazine, which uncovered the CIA operation, had always opposed efforts to fight communism.

"Let's not be overpompous or kid ourselves," Stratton said in a statement. He said other youth organizations speak for their national point of view and are controlled by their countries' leaders. He called the CIA project a "modest effort" to insure against Communist propaganda's dominating international gatherings.

Stratton said he was tired of those who "latch onto every occasion to demand" the CIA be investigated. He said there was "no reason to be concerned."

Comparing the present problem with the Olympics, where, Stratton feels, the United States should finance American athletes, the Congressman said the question was one of a "Pollyanna" attitude against "cutthroats and dirty players."